approaches, it is likely that the requirement of funds would be lower than the assessment made by the Majumdar Committee. No separate assessment has been made for literacy.

The IX Plan allocation for elementary education in the Central Plan was Rs. 11,842 crores. Besides this, provision of Rs. 4526.75 crores was made for the Mid Day Meal scheme. The allocation for year 2000-2001 has been fixed at Rs. 3608.75 crores, which is 25% more than the expenditure for the year 1999-2000.

Literacy Rate in NER

713. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether literacy rate in the NER is lower than in other States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of funds granted by Government for this purpose in the country particularly in the NER during the last five years and till-date, district-wise/year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The national literacy rate as per National Sample Survey Organization's 53rd Round Survey Report 1997 is 62%. As per this report State-wise literacy rates are Assam (75%), Arunachal Pradesh (60%), Manipur (76%), Meghalaya (77%), Mizoram (95%), Nagaland (84%), Sikkim (79%) and Tripura (73%). Thus literacy rates in the NER, except for Arunachal Pradesh, are relatively higher than in other States of the country.

(c) A Statement mentioning the funds released to the North Eastern Region during the last five years for AE programme is enclosed. District-wise figures are being collected.

Statement

Funds released to the North Eastern States during the last five Financial Years

(Rs. in lakhs)

States	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Arunachal Pradesh	25.63	20.72	3.67	—	—
Assam	361.09	197.27	86.97	195.61	254.99
Manipur	17.62	20.64	17.94	25.55	8.70
Meghalaya	123.60	112.45	16.85	16.00	12.50
Mizoram	6.43	0.57	61.23	49.52	—
Nagaland	47.81	56.90	32.36	27.89	—
Sikkim	—	11.22	—	—	—
Tripura	0.10	4.73	4.00	61.32	10.00
TOTAL:	582.26	424.50	223.02	375.89	286.19

Privatisation of appointments in KVS

†714. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether appointments in Kendriya Vidyalayas are being privatised under which appointment of fourth class employees is the beginning;

(b) if so, whether all types of appointments would be included in this, stating its impact on the fourth class employees already working;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.